



# Olathe Link

City of Olathe  
Newsletter  
Early Autumn 2008

## 2009 City of Olathe Operating Budget Vital and necessary services the focus

Significantly slowed revenue growth for the City of Olathe, combined with increasing costs to provide services underscores the importance of the City's continued approach to financial sustainability.

While the economy is impacting City of Olathe finances, City officials recognize residents' household budgets are also impacted overall through soaring fuel costs and increasing food prices. The City Council is not willing to ask residents for increased taxes, but is taking measures to uphold Olathe's finances for the long term and maintain the city's quality of life.

### Delivering the "New Normal"

The City of Olathe evaluated the services it provides and placed them in four categories: **vital services**, such as police and fire protection; **necessary services**; such as street maintenance; **desirable services**; such as youth development programs and school resource officer levels; and **convenient services**, such as police response to non-injury auto accidents. While the desirable and convenient services enrich the community, the focus for the 2009 budget will be the vital and necessary services.

The "new normal" for some future City of Olathe services may be providing residents only vital and necessary services. Years ago a visit to the service station meant someone else pumped the gas, and perhaps checked the oil, cleaned the windshield or checked the tires' air pressure. That was normal then. Today, it is normal to pump your own gas.

"There will be impacts to our overall service levels, and some programs such as youth services and some neighborhood services, among others will be reduced or eliminated," says Olathe City Manager Michael Wilkes. "The City's 2009 budget reflects what is affordable, making the City use the same process Olathe residents are taking as they face tighter financial pressures."

In recent years the City of Olathe attained the area's highest level of citizen satisfaction for services, according to the annual citizen survey. The City set expectations, and either met or exceeded them. Now, although the City must redefine expectations, the City will continue working to provide the highest quality vital and necessary services.

Watch the city manager's presentation on the 2009 City of Olathe Operating Budget, see the proposed budget document and more information about the budget at [www.olatheks.org/Finance/ResultsResources/Budget/Operating](http://www.olatheks.org/Finance/ResultsResources/Budget/Operating).

### Reduced Revenue

1991-2007 - Olathe sales tax and assessed valuation growth averaged 8-11 percent annually.  
2008-2009 - 1.5-2.5 percent growth is expected.

*Olathe's outlook is strong and the City will effectively weather the current economic downturn as it did in 2002.*

Standard and Poor's, May 2008, Olathe's upgrade from AA to AA+



*Olathe Named 11th  
Best Place to Live in  
U.S.A.* —Money Magazine

Olathe Among ...

*Fastest Growing  
Cities in U.S.*

—U.S. Census

*Top Places to Live*

—Relocate America

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## Mayor's Message

# Residents Make Olathe One of the Best Places to Live

**Olathe remains among the country's Best Places to Live** and is now ranked 11th by *Money Magazine* among cities scoring highest in attributes such as jobs and economy, safety, education, and housing. This isn't our first time for national recognition. Olathe was ranked 13th in 2006, the last time *Money Magazine* announced its list of Best Places. What's more, in 2004, *Money* recognized our city as one of America's hottest cities in its "America's Hottest Towns" report.

*Relocate America*, a national directory of communities, includes Olathe in the 100 Top Places to Live in the United States, the only city in Kansas on that list in 2008.

In other news, the U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that **Olathe is in the top 25 fastest-growing cities** in the country. Olathe is growing faster than nearly any other city in the Midwest with a population of 100,000 or greater, with the exception of two Chicago suburbs.

This tremendous growth is not a goal, but a result. It is an outcome of our high quality of life and the vibrant community spirit that you, our citizens, embody. It can be attributed to many positive things about our community, many of which *Money Magazine* and *Relocate America* look at when making their selections for the country's best places to live. *Money Magazine* evaluates how well each city reflects Midwestern values, their proximity to a metropolis, cost of living, incomes, and job growth. *Relocate America* selects communities based upon neighborhoods, beauty of the area, school

performance, recreation activities, and economic growth.

Yes, Olathe is blessed with many positive aspects, but I believe **it is our residents who place us at the top** of the charts.

All of the good news we celebrate confirms that Olathe's sense of community and community spirit are unsurpassed. Olathe neighbors step up to help their neighbors, and our community is fortunate to have the active engagement of many volunteers. They serve in our businesses, schools, churches, medical facilities, neighborhoods, and more.

Olathe businesses, civic clubs, and our education community have long partnered with the City to provide leadership experiences for youth and other opportunities in important areas such as literacy, recreation, and the arts. The City of Olathe organization has more than 800 very special residents who volunteer their time in a variety of capacities, and they are becoming increasingly important to our success.

It's no wonder so many want to make Olathe their place to live, work, raise a family, or retire. Olathe's founders got it right when they named Olathe after the Shawnee Indian word for beautiful. Beautiful applies to the spirit of our people, as well as the Olathe landscape. **YOU are the best!**

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland  
Mayor

## Help Keep Olathe a Best Place to Live

Residents are encouraged to share their vision for Olathe's future by participating in updating the Olathe Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is not only important in establishing Olathe land zoning and development, it directly or indirectly influences the community's transportation and housing options, and the business of the city, including work, shopping and other opportunities. This fall, watch for invitations to attend workshops, open houses and participate in surveys and input through a Comprehensive Plan website. For more information, call Olathe Development Services, 913-971-8750.

## Report Streetlight Outages, Signal Problems

See a burned out streetlight? Take a minute and call it in, or send an e-mail. It will speed the bulb replacement process. The City of Olathe has a dedicated telephone number to **directly report streetlight outages: 913-971-8513**, or send an e-mail to [streetlights@olatheks.org](mailto:streetlights@olatheks.org).

If possible, residents are asked to provide the street light number printed on the pole or provide the nearest intersection.

The City also has a new **dedicated line for reporting problems with traffic signals, 913-971-5180**. After business hours, call 913-971-7500 for the Police Department's non-emergency line.

To report problems with **street** or **traffic signs**, call **913-971-5170**.

Bring the Family • 15th Annual

## Olathe Fire Department Open House

Sunday, October 12 • Noon – 4 p.m.

Olathe Fire Station 1 • 501 E. Old 56 Highway

All activities and refreshments are FREE. Hot dogs grilled by Atmos Energy.

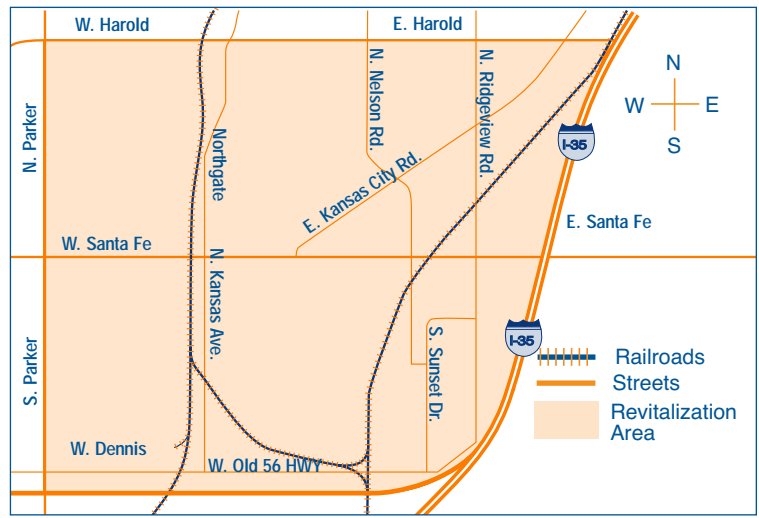
- Bike rodeo
- Kids spraying water from a real fire hose
- Meet Olathe firefighters
- Olathe fire trucks
- Rescue demonstration
- Sparky the robotic fire dog
- Child safety carseat checks by the Olathe Police Department
- Rides on a fire truck with Tradition's Fire Company and Museum
- Kansas Highway Patrol's rollover demonstration machine
- Search and rescue dogs

Deaf or hard of hearing and Spanish interpreters will be available.

# Property Tax Rebate Available for Original Town Property Improvements

Residential and commercial property owners in Original Town Olathe who make eligible property improvements in that area may receive property tax rebates available through the Neighborhood Revitalization Act.

The rebate applies to the additional taxes resulting from the increase in assessed value of the property due to improvements. Rebates are 90 percent of the tax increment for residential properties and 80 percent for commercial properties, and last for 10 years. To learn more about the program, contact Emily Kukal, Planning Services, 913-971-8969, ekukal@olatheks.org.



## Olathe Services Guide

### EMERGENCY

Ambulance ..... 911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls ..... 971-5323

Fire/Police ..... 911

GENERAL INFORMATION (TDD/Voice)..... 971-8600

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8700

### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Building Codes  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8575

Building Inspections..... 971-8574

Community Development Block Grant  
201 N. Cherry ..... 971-6260

Community Enhancement  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8580

Housing and Transportation  
201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice)..... 971-6260

Housing Rehabilitation  
201 N. Cherry ..... 971-6268

Neighborhood Services  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8750

Planning Services  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8750

Public Housing Authority  
201 N. Cherry (TDD/Voice)..... 971-6260

Zoning Information  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8725

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administration and Life Safety Services  
1225 S. Hamilton Circle..... 971-6333

Emergency..... 911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls ..... 971-5323

Non emergency TDD/TTY calls ..... 971-7903

Emergency Management ..... 971-7943

Spanish Speaking Call Line ..... 971-6367

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

City Attorney's Office  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8732

Prosecutor's Office  
1200 S. Harrison ..... 971-6742

Community Mediation Program..... 971-7736

LIBRARY

201 E. Park ..... 971-6850

Indian Creek Branch  
12990 S. Black Bob Road ..... 971-5235

MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP  
1200 Kansas City Road..... 971-5111

Heritage Center ..... 971-5111

Olathe Historical Society ..... 971-5110

MAYOR'S OFFICE  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8500

MUNICIPAL COURT  
1200 S. Harrison ..... 971-6393

Court Services  
1200 S. Harrison ..... 971-5213

MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
1385 S. Robinson ..... 971-9311

Customer Service ..... 971-9311

Billing  
Trash  
Water & Sewer  
After-Hours Answering Service..... 971-5151

Missed Trash  
Water/Sewer Emergency  
Water Quality Questions  
600 S. Curtis ..... 971-5122

Solid Waste Transfer Station  
1681 S. Valley Rd. .... 971-5175

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Administration  
200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice)..... 971-6263

Parks and Public Grounds  
200 W. Santa Fe ..... 971-6038

Cemetery Caretaker  
738 N. Chestnut ..... 971-5226

Recreation Division  
200 W. Santa Fe (TDD/Voice)..... 971-6263

Recreation Activity Registration (24-hrs.) ..... 971-8227

Special Events  
200 W. Santa Fe ..... 971-8004

POLICE DEPARTMENT

501 E. 56 Highway ..... 971-7500

Alarm Coordinator..... 971-6100

Animal Control  
505 E. Sunvale ..... 971-6362

Emergency..... 911

Emergency TDD/TTY Calls ..... 971-5323

### PUBLIC WORKS

100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8505

Street Maintenance  
Woodland & Harold..... 971-9511

Pot Hole Hotline  
Woodland & Harold..... 971-6037

Traffic Engineer  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8505

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Administration and Accounting  
201 N. Cherry ..... 971-8000

City Clerk  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8521

Human Resources  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8735

Jobline..... 971-8749

Office of Human Relations  
100 E. Santa Fe ..... 971-8790

(TDD)..... 971-8651

Fair Housing Hotline ..... 971-6472

Risk Management  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8716

Purchasing  
100 E. Santa Fe..... 971-8714

OLATHE KANSAS

Printed on recyclable paper.

**Olathe City Council**

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lcampbell@olatheks.org

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and Mayor Pro Tem  
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# Full Service Hotel, Conference Center Coming to Olathe

An 11-story, 315-suites Embassy Suites Hotel with 80,000 square feet of meeting space will be located in the growing Corporate Ridge Office Park near K-10 and Ridgeview Road. The largest ballroom will accommodate up to 2,000 seated guests, and can be subdivided for smaller uses. The hotel will also have a full service restaurant, coffee shop and gift shop.

Commercial development, such as this hotel property, provides additional long-term revenue for the community ---revenue that can help stabilize residential property tax rates. The community will benefit economically from sales tax and the attraction of the large conference facility for additional office development in Olathe.

The Corporate Ridge location is home to several company headquarters and is near the Kansas State University-Olathe Innovation Campus and Kansas Bioscience Park. Those attending large conferences are expected to stay at Embassy Suites as well

as other area hotels and motels.

Olathe businesses will no longer need to leave Olathe for larger meetings and gatherings. Large school events may also take advantage of the conference center.

John Q. Hammons Hotels, Opus Northwest and the City of Olathe reached a development agreement this summer. Rather than owning the hotel and/or conference center and possibly foregoing all property tax and incurring operational and maintenance cost risk, as many other cities do, the developer will own and operate the hotel with a 10-year tax abatement.

The hotel and conference center is expected to open in 2010.

For more information about the Olathe Embassy Suites project, contact Dave Mashburn, John Q. Hammons Hotels and Resorts, 417-864-4300.

## What's Being Built in Olathe

**Ridgeview Corporate Centre**, northeast corner of College Boulevard and Ridgeview Road, will include four office buildings, ranging from three to five stories.

**Hilton Garden Inn**, will be located in Olathe Gateway, south of 119th Street and west of Kansas City Road. The three-story hotel will have 134 rooms and approximately 80,000 square feet in area.

Newly completed **Woodland Elementary School**, No. 33, at 115th and Woodland Road, has opened for the 2008-09 school year.

**UMB Bank** has started construction at the southeast corner of 119th Street and Ridgeview Road. The bank will include two drive-through lanes and have an approximate floor area of 5,000 square feet.

Grading has started on **Greenwood Business Center** at 134th Place and Greenwood Street. A building permit plan is pending for the first office-warehouse building.

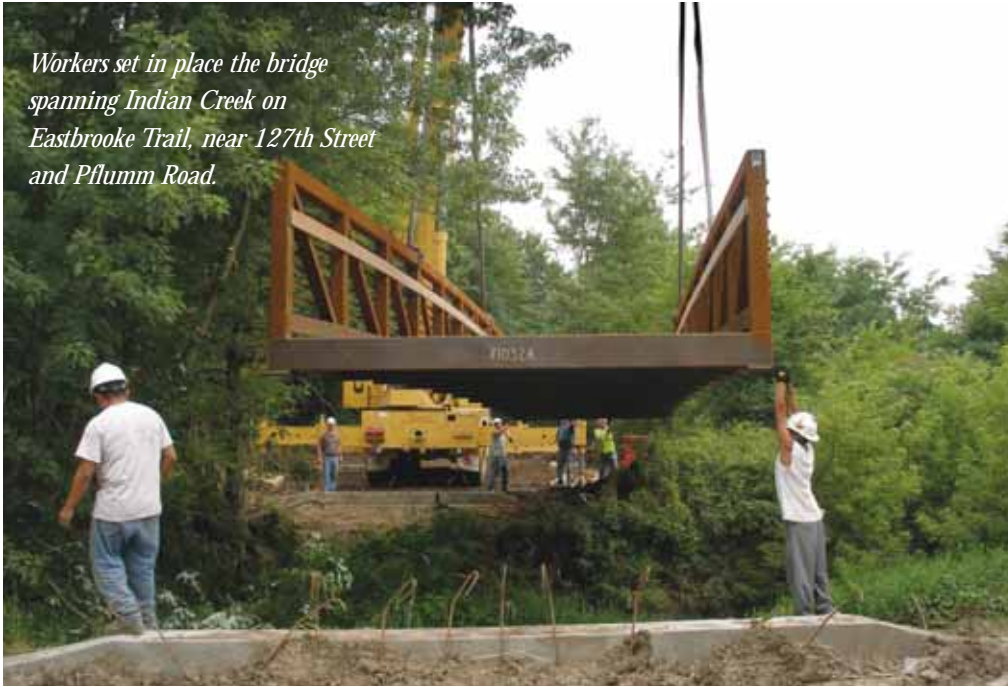
**Arby's** restaurant at 18615 W. 151st Street is under construction and is expected to open in late summer or early fall.



*New bridges are under construction for the new I-35 and Lone Elm Interchange in southwest Olathe. More than 1,000 acres of nearby property is expected to develop, producing more than \$500 million in investment for the area. The interchange project is on schedule for completion in summer 2010. Photo: Tim Danneberg*

# Two More Trails Soon To Reach Completion

*Workers set in place the bridge spanning Indian Creek on Eastbrooke Trail, near 127th Street and Pflumm Road.*



Outdoor enthusiasts will have full access in late fall to the new 1.5-mile **Eastbrooke Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail**. It connects the Indian Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail just west of Pflumm Road, extends south and splits southeast to California Trail Junior High School, and southwest to Eastbrooke Neighborhood Park and Regency Place Elementary School. Olathe park sales tax funds the trail's design cost, plus 20 percent of the project's total \$1.3 million construction cost.

Pedestrians and cyclists can enjoy **Rolling Ridge Trail** before the end of the year. Most of the trail follows Little Cedar Creek, traversing approximately 2.3 miles on Olathe's west side. It begins at 131st Street and Hedge Lane on the north, connecting Ernie Miller Park & Nature Center and Prairie Center Park. South of Santa Fe Avenue, it connects Rolling Ridge Elementary School, ending at Oregon Trail Park on Dennis Avenue. Olathe park sales tax funds the trail's design cost and 10 percent of the project's \$1.4 million construction cost.



*Rolling Ridge Trail under construction south of Santa Fe, along Little Cedar Creek*

For more trail information visit [www.olatheks.org/ParksRec/Projects](http://www.olatheks.org/ParksRec/Projects).

## Police Building Expansion Project Moves Ahead

The Olathe City Council has approved a \$16 million Police building expansion project to construct more than 30,000 square feet and fund necessary renovation to the existing building at 56 Highway and S. Harrison. The work is part of the long-term plan for the Public Safety Campus, which already includes the Fire Administration and Life Safety Services building and the Municipal Court building.

The Public Safety Campus' central Olathe location, along with excellent road access to all areas of the city, were critical factors in the decision to expand at the current site.

Since 2000, the Police Department has exhausted usable space in

the existing building, built in 1983. The Traffic Unit, Investigations Unit and portions of the Community Services Division have been working from other locations, says Police Chief Janet Thiessen.

"We are definitely looking forward to having adequate work and locker space for all our personnel and having a facility that meets our needs and the community's needs for the next 10 to 20 years," says Thiessen.

Turner Construction, construction manager; Hoefler Wysocki Architects; and City staff are finalizing the space design. Construction is expected to get underway during first quarter 2009 and be completed in 2010.

# Olathe Earth News

## YardCarts – New Option for Yard Waste Collection

The new, 95-gallon, mobile cart is similar to the City's popular SmartCart. But this new "green-color" cart is used only for yard waste - specifically designed with vents on the sides and on top to prevent the build-up overtime of strong odors from stored grass and hedge clippings, leaves and other yard materials. The YardCart is touted as the perfect solution for individuals who dislike storing bags of grass clippings and leaves in their yard days before trash pick-up and individuals who no longer want to purchase yard waste bags. Meant to be stored outside only, the YardCart has numerous benefits for residents.

### Among the YardCart's benefits:

- Capacity to store up to 330 lbs. of yard waste or six to seven yard waste bags per cart
- Wide opening makes it easy to fill
- Unlike paper bags, YardCarts do not break down in the rain
- Easy to move around the yard as you mow
- Keeps yards neat
- Makes City yard waste collection easier and more efficient using the cart lifters

The same curbside yard waste collection guidelines apply to users of the YardCarts. The YardCart should be placed at the curb by 8 a.m. on the resident's scheduled collection day.

In July, about 15 Olathe residents got a chance to experience the benefits of using the YardCart by participating in a pilot program. Olathe Municipal Services will consider comments and suggestions from YardCart pilot program participants to improve the program for residential trash customers. One suggestion, already taken, was to print "Yard Waste Only" on the carts to prevent a mix-up between the YardCart and the SmartCart from users and from City employees on collection days.

Another advantage of the YardCart is cost savings. Residents can obtain a YardCart from the City for a one-time lease fee of \$75, which will be added to their solid waste bill upon delivery of the cart. The lease fee of the cart is the equivalent of purchasing 150 City of Olathe yard waste bags - \$75.

The carts are City property and are assigned to an individual address for a one-time lease fee. Residents are responsible for taking care of the cart, including cleaning, and for preventing damage to the cart. The City will replace small damaged/broken parts, such as wheels, if necessary.

For more information about the YardCart, call Olathe Municipal Services at (913) 971-9311.

*Here's what some of the YardCart pilot program participants had to say about using the new carts:*

***"I used my YardCart for the first time last weekend and LOVE it! I recently bought an older home which had been vacant for awhile and the gutters were full of leaves. My son was able to clean the gutter waste (leaves and twigs) by dropping it from the top of his perch on a ladder directly into the open cart below."***

Anna Keena, YardCart pilot program participant

***"The YardCart Program has been terrific! I really like the fact that I can put the yard waste into the cart and am able to wheel the cart to the curb instead of having to carry the bags and if it rains, I don't have to worry about the bag breaking when the driver comes to collect it."***

Becky Giannola, YardCart pilot program participant

### Easy to Sign-up for a YardCart

- 1 Call Olathe Customer Service at (913) 971-9311
- 2 Visit the Olathe Customer Service Division, 1385 S. Robinson, open M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 3 Go on-line to [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org) – select Municipal Services from the drop-down menu

For information on water, sewer and solid waste services, please call 913-971-9311.

Para mas informacion sobre el servicio de agua, alcantarillas, y basura, favor de llamar a 913-971-9311.

## Olathe Municipal Services

Water/Sewer Services • Solid Waste Collection • Curbside Recycling  
Yard Waste Collection • Household Hazardous Waste Program



### YardCarts are Another Choice for Yard Waste Disposal

YardCarts are not meant to replace other options in the City's Yard Waste Collection Program. Residents are still able to place yard waste at the curb in yard waste bags. The City sells yard waste bags in bundles of 50 for \$25 plus tax at the following locations:

- Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe
- Municipal Services Center, 1385 S. Robinson
- Transfer Station, 1681 S. Valley Road

Residents may also dispose of yard waste at the City's Composting Facility, Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free service, but residents will have to show a copy of their City Services bill showing sanitation charges, and matching photo ID.

More than 12,000 tons of yard waste is diverted from the waste stream each year through the City's Yard Waste Program. Yard waste materials collected from residents are processed into compost and wood chip mulch and offered back to the community for reuse. For more information, contact Municipal Services at (913) 971-9311.

### Olathe Residents Have Three Sites for Drop-off Recycling

Olathe residents now have another convenient drop-off site option for recycling aluminum cans, tin (steel) cans, cardboard, plastic, and mixed paper (newspapers, junk mail, magazines, etc.) – the **West Olathe Wal-Mart**, located at the northwest corner of Parker and Santa Fe Streets.

The recycling containers are located on the north side of the store. Residents only have to place their materials in the correct recycling container. Residents are also asked not to leave any materials outside of the containers.

#### The City of Olathe's other recycling sites:

- **Downtown Olathe at the Farmers' Market**, Kansas Avenue and Poplar Street
- **East Olathe Wal-Mart**, southeast corner of 135th Street and Black Bob Road. The City's drop-off recycling program is a free and easy way to recycle some everyday items used in the home. But, residents can also recycle at the curb through the City's Bin & Win program for \$3 a month. Go to [www.olatheks.org/OMS/Recycling/Curbside](http://www.olatheks.org/OMS/Recycling/Curbside) to sign-up.

For more information about recycling, contact Olathe Municipal Services at (913) 971-9311.

### Not sure what to recycle or where?

Go to [www.olatheks.org/OMS/Recycling](http://www.olatheks.org/OMS/Recycling) for a list of accepted materials and how to prepare them for drop-off recycling site locations, curbside recycling, Household Hazardous Waste collection, E-waste, and yard waste. There is also information on other recycling opportunities.

### Direct Debit Service

The free direct debit service allows you to have your City of Olathe utility bill payment automatically drafted from your checking and savings account. Call (913) 971-9311 to sign up.

# Olathe Link

P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, Kansas 66051-0768

## Reader Feedback

Please send your comments to:  
Olathe Link  
P.O. Box 768  
Olathe, KS 66051-0768  
linkcomments@olatheks.org  
913-971-8700

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 323  
Olathe, KS

## Postal Customer

### Issues Affecting You

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### CITIZEN REQUEST SYSTEM

Make an inquiry or request for City service 24/7, [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org)—Click on Contact Us.

## City of Olathe

### Summary of Major Services Provided by City Departments

#### City Manager's Office

City Council policies and procedures  
Annual budget, Capital Improvement Program, Strategic Plan  
Communications and public affairs, Citizen Request System

#### City Auditor

Independent financial and management related audits of City operations

#### Development Services Department

Planning services  
Land annexation  
Building and other development-related permits  
Building permit review, inspection services  
Statistical data, maps and reports about Olathe's growth and development  
Olathe Housing Authority

Works with Planning Commission, Board of Code Review, and Board of Zoning Appeals

Taxi Coupon Program  
Neighborhood Services  
Community Enhancement

#### Fire Department

Emergency response (fire/rescue/medical)  
Technical rescue  
Emergency Management and preparedness  
Public education  
Fire investigation  
Fire prevention  
Explosives disposal

#### Information Technology Services Department

Manages and supports City information technology assets  
Develops information technology-based solutions for delivering City services

#### Legal Department

Legal counsel to City  
Rights-of-way and easement acquisition for public improvement projects

Prosecutes violators of municipal ordinances  
Provides services to crime victims

#### Municipal Court

Court hearings related to violations of City and traffic ordinances, collect court fines/fees, monitor individuals on probation

#### Municipal Services Department

Customer service/water, wastewater, solid waste, recycling  
Water production and distribution  
Wastewater collection and treatment  
Solid waste management  
Repair and maintenance of the water/wastewater system  
City vehicle maintenance

#### Parks & Recreation Department

Maintenance of City parks, grounds, rights-of-way, historic sites and trails  
Recreation programs for all ages and abilities  
Olathe Memorial Cemetery  
Special events

#### Police Department

Patrol  
Traffic  
Animal Control  
Parking  
Investigations  
Community Outreach  
School Resource Officers

#### Public Works Department

City Engineering  
Streets – new construction, maintenance  
Traffic control  
Stormwater drainage  
Sidewalks – new construction, repairs  
City facilities - new construction, maintenance

#### Resource Management Department

Human Resources  
Human Relations  
Risk Management  
Strategic Financial Management  
City Clerk's Office  
Purchasing